



WORDS for FRIENDS

JUNE, 2015

Officers



INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER

Greeting and New Officers	1
New Membership Information	2
Membership Form	3
Library Director's Report	4
Events and Wishes	5
Library Foundation Update	6

The Word of the Year is **CHANGE** !

Greetings one and all to the NEW newsletter for the Friends of the Library! As the caption says, this is the year for change: a new library, new goals, new membership information, new officers, new and improved Friends group!! Our members have always been awesome FRIENDS to have, and we want to expand that membership, the support for the library, and the FUN!

First, let's introduce this year's Officers:

Bill Lux, President

I have lived in the rural Blair area for 19 years since moving here from Orlando Florida with my wife of 29 years. I have had the opportunity to serve on other local boards and committees for Blair groups and organizations and always welcome these chances to serve the Blair community. My wife Celeste and I live on a small rural acreage with our two children and too many pets. When we are not tending to the constant demands of an acreage, we enjoy camping and bike riding, and one of my hobbies is finding and bringing old bikes back to life. Our whole family are avid readers, and we have come to love the Blair Public Library for all the amazing activities, programs, wide range of media, and community involvement it offers. So I was very happy to have this chance to serve on the Friends board, and urge all of you who also enjoy the library to consider becoming a Friend!

Alissa Goodman, Vice-President

My husband Scott, son Mason, daughter Annie and I moved to Blair from Pennsylvania in 2007. I have always enjoyed volunteering with organizations and programs I believe in. I love the library and love the wonderful resource it is for our family. I have been a Friend of the library for a few years and then joined the Friends Board

Ruth Peterson

Ruth spent many years working at the Blair Public Library. She retired from the Library Director position approximately five years ago and is keeping very busy with her children, grandchildren and husband, Jim. She has been an advocate of the Friends group since it's beginning, and the Friends are glad to have her on board during the transition to the new building. She and her husband are active in the community and enjoy the library!

Ann Sedlacek, Treasurer

Ann has served as a Blair Library Board member, the Washington County representative to the Eastern Library System and has been a Friends of the Library member since ??????. She is retired and plans to spend time with her son and family (including her first grandchild) in the Dallas area and daughter in Lake Tahoe, NV. Her husband, Jon is an attorney in Blair. She enjoys reading historical fiction and mysteries.

New Membership Information

On the opposite page you will find the new, improved, membership form for the Friends of the Library.

There are a few changes that you’ll notice!

First of all, it’s no longer half a page. That makes our library director happy. It is much easier to file full sheets of paper!

It also lists the Friends mission statement on the form. It helps us remember what the Friends group is for!

“The Friends support, promote and enhance the services and goals of the Blair Public Library.” A very important statement.

Next, we did a canvass of Friends groups across the state, and found that we are behind the times with our fee structure. Thus, the Board analyzed the findings and restructured the membership fees and types of memberships available.

This change does **NOT** affect the current Lifetime Members. If you are a lifetime member your membership is guaranteed.

The new fee structure is as follows:

\$5.00	1 year Junior/Student membership (17 years and younger)
\$10.00	1 year Single membership
\$25.00	1 year Family membership

Dues and donations may be made with cash or check. All checks should be made to the Friends of the Blair Public Library.

BENEFITS !!!

Why join?

- You get a punch card that allows you 5 (five) instances of fine forgiveness. (The library cannot forgive fines for lost materials. Only late fines may be forgiven.)
- Invitations to special events.
- Early entry to book sales.
- And if that’s not enough ...

You get to hang out and work with **FUN** people!

What Can I do to Help?

- You can serve on a committee (like communications, membership, event planning)
- You can bake goods for events or provide snacks
- You can volunteer at the library (they always need help!)
- You can become a member of the Board

..... and much more!!!



The Friends support, promote and enhance the services and goals of the Blair Public Library.

Please return completed form and dues to:

Blair Public Library
210 S. 17th St., Blair, NE 68008

Email us: blairlibraryfriends@gmail.com
Phone: (402) 426-3617

Member benefits

- ✓ 5 late fees forgiven
- ✓ Invitations to special events
- ✓ Early entry to book sales

MEMBERSHIP FORM – Please provide all information applicable:

Name(s)
Address
Home Phone
Cell Phone
Email
Today's Date:
Type of Membership – Please circle one. Memberships run for one year from the month of payment. \$10 - 1 year Single membership \$25 - 1 year Family membership \$5 - 1 year Junior/Student membership (17 years & younger)
Already a member or just want to make a donation? Thank you for being a Friend! All extra donations from <u>Friends' Members</u> and <u>Non-Members</u> are welcome! Write the amount of your tax deductible donation here: \$ _____ <i>Dues and donation checks can be made payable to the Friends of the Blair Public Library</i>

As a Friend, you can help in many ways: Provide snacks and baked goods for events; Set up/assist with events such as the cookie walk and book sale; Help on planning committees; Help on communications committees (Facebook page, newsletter, web page, etc.); Volunteer in the library; and become a member of the Friends' Board.

What benefit does the Friends group provide for the Patrons? Summer Reading, Inter-library Loan Postage, Babysitting Clinic, Summer Reading, Youth Lock-ins, Children's Holiday Parties, Book Bags

Please Join Today!

Library Director's Report

By Gayle Roberts, Library Director



Summer is Here!!

There have been a few **CHANGES** at the library this year. Everyone is excited about the planning for the new building. Fundraising efforts will continue, but the focus will change. The community support for the library has been fabulous and we owe a great deal to the Library Foundation and the Friends of the Library for their continued unwavering support! If you have any questions on the new building, or if you would like to review floor plans, please feel free to stop in and see me!

We have had a staffing change. Miss Dusk has left us for an exciting new adventure. We are in the process of working with the City to change our titles and job descriptions a bit. For now, Miss Wendy will be our librarian in charge of programming and customer services. Miss Connie will be taking over the helm in technical services and Miss Celeste will be working on ILL (inter-library loans) and communications (i.e. Facebook, Web Page, etc.)

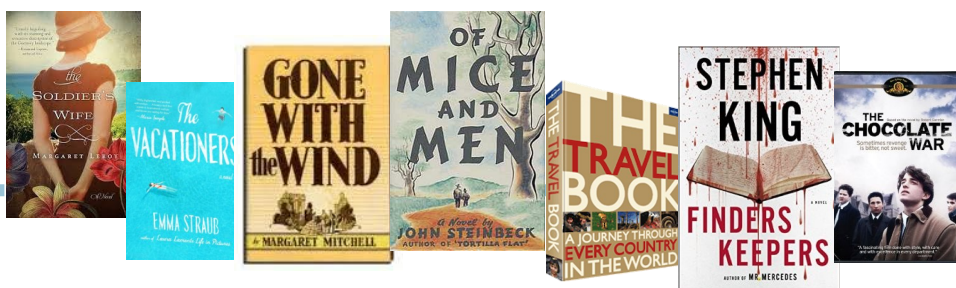
Thanks to all of the Friends who worked at the Scholastic Book Fair. Our total sales reached slightly over \$1,500. That brings the library almost \$500 in book profit with Scholastic. That money will supplement the juvenile collection for the winter reading program. The staff and I are aware that this takes some time and effort, but the outcome is always worthwhile and appreciated!

We have two Friends members, Linda Ferring and Ann Sedlacek, who are currently helping us with Phase I of our relabeling project. Another Friend, Loretta Fetchner, has also been assisting with the DVD conversion project. All need to be done before we move to the new facility. All materials will be transferred to the new RFID system. This is a computer chip that will be read at the time you check out. No items will be individually scanned and you will be able to check out your materials whenever you are ready. Our new building will hold some fabulous new technology, but there is a lot of prep to get it ready to go! Thank you to all who are currently helping us out! If you'd like to help us prepare, feel free to contact us!

Summer reading programming is underway. The library is offering 105 programs this summer for kids of all ages. If you haven't signed up for summer reading, you still can!!! Adults can participate as well. There is a grand prize for adults—a new Kindle and some miscellaneous “book” type things that all can enjoy! The complete calendar is on our website blog and all events have been loaded on to our site calendar as well. I can't wait for the Owls and Wildlife Encounters!

This summer's theme is **EVERY HERO HAS A STORY**. It's a great theme, because not only can we celebrate our fictional heroes, but our community heroes, heroic pets, our military, and our friends and family. Our first craft day brought 299 participants; our Salute to Homeland Heroes brought 211 patrons out in the heat; we had 61 at our movie, 37 at storytime and 41 at our early literacy story time. Fabulous numbers. Lego Club is going on right as I type, and I think there's about 60 in that small room! The staff will be so glad when the new building is open and we have room for our fabulous crowds! You are all our heroes — what will your story be?

Enjoy your summer, and may you find many good reads to finish out those lazy, hazy summertime days!



Upcoming Friends Events

Ongoing Book Sale
At the library during regular library hours

Teddy Roosevelt
At City Hall—Chambers Room
July 19, 2015; 1:30 pm
This is a Humanities Nebraska Presentation with Darrel Draper,
Historical Edutainer performing as President Teddy Roosevelt

Large Book Sale
TBA (will be scheduled in September/October)

Library Wish List

Summer Reading Wish List

- 10 boxes of graham crackers
- 12 boxes of sugar cones
- 30 cans of chocolate frosting
- 40 cans of vanilla frosting
- 20 large bags of m&m's
- 20 bags of pretzel sticks
- 10 bags of mini marshmallows
- 16 canisters of Orange Kool-Aid
- 16 canisters of Lemonade
- 5 containers of decorator or ice cream sprinkles
- 10 large bags of Chex mix
- 10 boxes of Cheez-its



- The Library Also Needs the Following For the Summer Lock In (July):
- White Tube Socks (30 Pairs)
 - Playtex Cleaning Gloves (30 Pairs)
 - Brown, Black and Yellow yarn
 - Sheets of Felt (variety of colors)
 - Smaller buttons (for eyes)
 - Kids Safety Scissors
- Food Items (please don't bring until July 10th or 11th, no nuts please):
- Baked brownies and cookies
 - Tortilla Chips, Salsa, Potatoe Chips, M&Ms, Pretzels, Cheez-Its, Goldfish, Fruit (bananas, watermelon, grapes)
 - Dill pickle slices; Miracle Whip

*“Individually
we
are one
Drop,
Together
we
are an
Ocean”*

Satoro

Library Foundation Update

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Library Foundation, THANK YOU for your support during our recent capital campaign! I am happy to report we have met our initial goal of raising \$1.4 million in pledges and gifts to meet our \$2.5 million obligation to the City of Blair for the new building.

The design process has wrapped up and bid documents are being prepared as I type this article. However ... WE ARE FAR FROM DONE! There is still much work to do to open the doors of the new Blair Public Library and Technology Center. This new facility will take more furnishings, more supplies, more programming expenses...and the Foundation plans to keep working to establish a sizeable sustainability fund in order to support the library well into the future.

As a Foundation, we will continue to fundraise, seek new grant opportunities, and keep the public informed as we get closer to construction and completion.

Thank you for your years of support, service and patience...our dream is FINALLY becoming a reality and the entire community is going to benefit from this amazing facility.

If you have questions about the project or would like to make a donation, please feel free to contact me any time and I'd be happy to visit with you!

JoEllen Maras, President
Blair Public Library Foundation
402-533-8126

